



**Kern Road  
Mennonite  
Church**

Dec. 7, 2004

Ja-deen Johnson  
Director, Consumer Affairs Division  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
302 w. Washington St.  
Suite E306  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Tony Dzwona  
Director, External Affairs  
Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor  
100 N. Senat Ave.  
Rm N501  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2215

Dear Madam/Sir:

Along with nearly 800 concerned residents, I attended the IURC hearing in South Bend on December 1. I registered to speak, but needed to leave before my name was called. I would therefore like to submit comments in writing.

By way of introduction, I am part of the pastoral team at Kern Road Mennonite Church and also on the board of the Center for Peace and Nonviolence, a coalition of ten St. Joseph County churches.

I applaud your proposal to reduce utility deposits. The current practice of charging a deposit based on four months' bill is simply unfair and leads repeatedly to the poorest in our community facing an almost insurmountable hurdle to get the heat turned on. I would encourage you to make the deposit equivalent to one months' bill.

As a father of four children, when I think of this issue, the following questions come to mind: How do you keep your baby healthy when you have no heat? How can your family get sleep when you all must huddle together to stay warm? How can a child do its homework in the freezing cold?

Several years ago, a family across the alley from where we live, had their gas cut off. As a result they were heating with space heaters. One night, a mattress caught fire. Thank goodness, no one was killed. But several

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**PASTORS**

David L. Sutter  
Janice Yordy Sutter  
André Gingerich Stoner

**SUPPORT STAFF**

Phyllis Miller, Office Admin.  
Susan Ades, Technical Director

**WORSHIP**

9:30 a.m. Sunday

**EDUCATION**

11 a.m. Sunday

**MINISTRIES**

Jeremiah House  
KRM Counseling Ministry  
Jeff Nixa  
Sisters of Susanna  
Ten Thousand Villages  
The Learning Center (with  
St. Paul Bethel Baptist Ch.)  
Vesper Chorale

**MEMBERSHIPS**

Center for Peace and Nonviolence  
Habitat for Humanity of St. Joseph  
County  
Hope Rescue Mission  
Indiana-Michigan Mennonite  
Conference  
Mennonite Church (USA)  
United Religious Community of  
St. Joseph County  
Southfield Village

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